



# Making Connections Between Texts

1. In *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London, the main character is a dog named Buck who is stolen from his home in California and forced to become a sled dog in Alaska. Buck, forced from his comfortable surroundings, learns to cope with the cruelty of men and other dogs as he is sold to different owners. His exposure to the harshness of the Arctic wilderness stirs up his primitive instincts, which lead him to ultimately give up his relationship with man to live with the wolves.

In *The Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane, Henry Fleming enlists in the American Civil War as an idealistic young man who has a desire to prove himself. However, in great fear for his life, he runs away from his regiment at the moment of battle. Through encounters with other brave and wounded soldiers, he finds deep within himself the courage to rejoin his regiment. In the course of fighting bravely in the battles that follow, he forgives himself of the shame and guilt of his earlier desertion.

In *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, Ralph is a boy of twelve who is marooned on an island with a group of other boys after a plane crash. The pilot has died in the crash. At first, Ralph's leadership is recognized by the other boys, but without society's rules and adult supervision, the other boys become increasingly uncivilized and turn on

In "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," by Washington Irving, Ichabod Crane takes a position as a schoolmaster in the small town of Sleepy Hollow. There, he is charmed by the lovely Katrina Van Tassel, whom he hopes to marry. However, Katrina has another suitor, Brom Bones, the local hero. This romantic rivalry is set against the legend of a headless horseman who rides through the woods of this little town in the Catskill Mountains of New York State during the late 1700s. One night in these woods, Ichabod meets his fate.

**Which two stories have the common theme of survival in a harsh world?**

- A. *The Red Badge of Courage* and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"**
- B. *The Call of the Wild* and *Lord of the Flies***
- C. *The Lord of the Flies* and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"**
- D. *The Call of the Wild* and *The Red Badge of Courage***

2. The novel *Far North*, by Will Hobbs, tells of the struggle of two teenage boys who survive in the freezing wilderness of Canada's Northwest Territories following a plane crash that leaves them stranded.

In *Into Thin Air*, Jon Krakauer tells the true story of a climb up Mount Everest in 1996 during which his group encountered a fierce rogue storm.

The nonfiction book *Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific by Raft*, by Thor Heyerdahl, tells about the author's 1947 sailing adventure in which he crossed the Pacific Ocean in a wooden raft.

Which theme do these three books have in common?

**A. homesickness**

**B. conquering nature**

**C. immigration**

**D. good versus evil**

